(b) whether it is satisfactory, if not, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal mining operations do have an impact on environment in general resulting in damage to land and pollution of air and water. Areas like Jharia coalfield where coal is being mined for many long years have seriously suffered from environmental pollution.

Action has been initiated for detailed environmental planning of various coalfields. Such plans for Talcher and North Karanpura coalfield are ready. Studies of more coalfields viz. Ib-Valley, Singrauli, Wardha, East and West Bokaro and Jharia coalfields are under way. Besides these coalfieldwise plans, environmenal management plans for individual projects are also being prepared. These plans are scrutinised by an Expert Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. New coal projects are sanctioned only after environmental clearance is given by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Security system in CIL

3008. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual expenditure incurred on the security system in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, since nationalisation,

(b) how many persons are employed at present in the security system;

(c) whether there is any security force in deployment on contract basis, and

(d) whether it has any impact on the cost of production and selling price of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the attached statement I and II. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 136]

(c) and (d) Excepting three persons employed on contract basis for security work in the CMPDIL, on other force is deployed on contract basis in any other coal company. Since the contractual obligation is limited to only 3 persons, it has virtually no effect on the cost of production of coal per unit.

3009. [*Transferred to the 8th December*, 1987].

Follow up action on the recommendations of the PUC

3010 SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the action taken so far and proposed to be taken in respect of the recommendations made by the Public Undertakings Committee on E.C.L in its 25th Report?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): The Committee on Public Undertakings has made, in all, 45 recommendations/observations in its 25th Report on E.C.L. The Department of Coal has since finalised its replies in respect of all the recommendations and forwarded them to the Comptroller and Auditor General for vetting. A copy has also been marked to the Lok Sabha Secretariat

Rural population's reliance on biofuel

3011. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN.
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding Government's policies to reduce rural population's reliance on biofuel; and